

**RUSSELL AND ELLSWORTH COUNTY**

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**OFFICE OF THE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
BUNKER HILL AND ELLSWORTH**

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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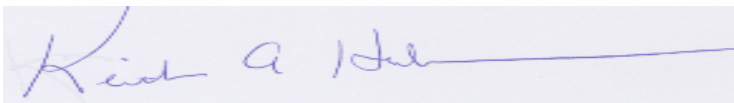
Kansas Senate regarding Ag Tax Exemption on fencing materials.

Good morning, Madame Chairperson, vice chair and members of the committee. It is an honor to be here today. My name is Keith Haberer and I am the Emergency Management director for Russell and Ellsworth County. I am also a fourth generation Kansas farmer and stockman, a volunteer firefighter and an advanced emergency medical technician.

I am grateful for the opportunity to address this committee. As you know, in recent years, Kansas has had many devastating and destructive wildland fires in different parts of the State. And now with the recent Four County Fire and others on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 we have suffered again. Farmers, ranchers and stockmen have been negatively impacted during these wildland fires in the loss of their homes, ranches, barns, sheds, equipment, vehicles, livestock, pastures, crops shelterbelts, hay and fences.

In the past, each time that these destructive wildland fires have ravaged our land, you as legislators have provided some sales tax relief on the cost of fencing supplies. Right now, it costs upwards of \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand) to have one mile of fence replaced. The average sales tax on the just the fencing supplies for that one mile of fence is roughly \$1000.00 (one thousand). In the big scheme of this disaster that might not seem like much but every little bit of relief that our producers can get helps them get back on their feet. A few of the things that we are asking for in this bill is of course the sales tax relief, making it retroactive for those producers that have already purchased fencing supplies and making it permanent for future wildland fires so you don't have to waste your precious time revisiting this issue.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to help our producers.



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